



Welcome to CME FX futures and options



Ready to participate in global currency markets?

CME Group is home to the world's largest regulated global [FX marketplace](#), providing access to standard size and Micro FX futures as well as FX options on developed and emerging market currencies.

FX is attractive to traders around the world, as the dynamics can be understood and interpreted through careful attention to economic events, news, and central bank policy decisions.

On average, \$80 billion a day is traded in CME FX futures and options across over 20 currency pairs. Up to more than \$270 billion a day¹ is traded around significant market events, as traders utilize CME FX contracts to manage risk and express their views on the markets. The appeal of our markets as a source of liquidity and price discovery is that all participants are treated the same – from the world's largest investment banks, hedge funds, asset managers, and corporations to an active individual investor – everyone sees the same price and has equal access to the same trade. CME is a regulated market that offers certainty of execution and liquidity nearly 24 hours a day, along with the safety and security of clearing.

At CME Group, we provide the granularity traders need – whether in our monthly or quarterly futures or our options which include weekly (Monday, Wednesday, Friday), monthly, and quarterly expiries. Discover the world's largest regulated centralized FX market, offering liquid markets and full pricing transparency with the safety and security of no counterparty or execution risk.

¹ \$81.2 billion notional ADV traded in 2020, and up to over \$270 billion a day traded around large market events (\$273 billion traded on 3/12/2020, the highest volume trading day in 2020).

Key features of FX futures and options

Active individual investors are attracted to listed FX markets for many reasons:



LIQUIDITY

Over \$80B in daily notional FX liquidity, nearly \$240B in notional OI, and tight bid/ask spreads can help lower trading costs².



CAPITAL, CREDIT EFFICIENCIES OF FUTURES

Free up capital via lower margin requirements, futures leverage, margin offsets with other FX contracts, and our COMEX Gold contract. Average initial margin requirements are approximately \$2,200 and \$220 across the standard size and Micro G7 FX contracts, respectively, resulting in an average maximum leverage ratio of 52:1.³



SAFETY AND SECURITY

CME Clearing backs all trades – mitigating counterparty credit risk so you can trade with confidence.



TRANSPARENCY

See the same prices, quotes, and trades as everyone else in the marketplace – and experience fully disclosed fees, no hidden costs of trading, and universal margin requirements.

² 2020 notional ADV of \$81.2B and average OI of \$239.4B across CME FX futures and options contracts.

³ Source: CME Group 2020 analysis, margin levels and contract notional values used in leverage ratio calculation as of 1/13/21. Leverage ratio = contract size in USD notional * initial margin.

Key features of FX futures and options continued



NEARLY 24 HOUR ACCESS

Act as market-moving world news and events unfold.



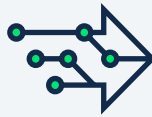
LARGEST REGULATED MARKETPLACE

Every trade is CFTC-regulated, supervised, and backed by CME Market Regulation to ensure integrity.



FLEXIBILITY

Trade how you need to: central limit order book, blocks, and exchange for physicals.



SPEED AND PERFORMANCE

Fast trade executions, confirmations, and straight-through processing with no "last-look" – which means the price you see is the price you will trade.



FUTURES LEVERAGE

Control a larger notional value for a relatively small amount of money – enhancing your buying power by 52:1, on average.



60/40 US TAX TREATMENT

Benefit from potential tax efficiencies, with the certainty of blended 60% long-term/40% short-term capital gains treatment, regardless of the holding period.⁴

⁴ CME Group Inc. and its affiliates do not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction.

Standard Sized Euro FX futures at a glance

We offer both standard and micro sized futures contracts on G7 currencies, INR/USD, and USD/CNH and standard size futures across the broader emerging market complex including ZAR/USD, RUB/USD, BRL/USD, MXN/USD, and USD/CNH. FX options are now also available to trade in ZAR/USD, RUB/USD, and MXN/USD.

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

	EURO FX FUTURES
CONTRACT SIZE	125,000 EUR
QUOTATION	Quoted in USD per EUR
MINIMUM TICK SIZE (OUTRIGHTS)	0.00005 USD per EUR (6.25 USD)
PRODUCT CODE	CME Globex: 6E CME Clearport: EC Clearing: EC
LISTED CONTRACTS	Quarterly contracts (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec) listed for 20 consecutive quarters and serial contracts listed for 3 consecutive months,
CONTRACT SETTLEMENT	Physical Delivery
SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES	EUR/USD Futures Settlement Procedures
TERMINATION OF TRADING	9:16 a.m. Central Time (CT) on the second business day immediately preceding the third Wednesday of the contract month (usually Monday)
TRADING HOURS	CME Globex and CME ClearPort: Sunday – Friday, 17:00-16:00 CT, with a 60-minute break each day beginning at 16:00 CT and no 17:00 CT session on Friday
EXCHANGE RULEBOOK	CME 261
BLOCK MINIMUM	Block Minimum Thresholds
VENDOR CODES	Quote Vendor Symbols Listing

Micro Euro FX futures at a glance

In addition to the features of our standard sized contracts, our micro contracts contain additional benefits for the active individual investor:

- Conveniently sized to the individual investor (1/10 for all G7, 1/10 for CNH, and 1/5 for INR)
- Affordable, requiring lower initial capital outlay with lower margin and exchange fees
- Part of our Micro suite of products – available in Equities and Gold – facilitating potential cross-margining opportunities
- Offers a more precise hedge for delta and gamma positions

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

	MICRO EURO FX FUTURES
CONTRACT SIZE	12,500 EUR
QUOTATION	Quoted in USD per EUR
MINIMUM TICK SIZE (OUTRIGHTS)	0.0001 USD per EUR (1.25 USD)
PRODUCT CODE	CME Globex: M6E CME ClearPort: M6E Clearing: M6E
LISTED CONTRACTS	Quarterly contracts (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec) listed for 2 consecutive quarters
CONTRACT SETTLEMENT	Physical Delivery
SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES	Micro Euro/American Dollar Settlement Procedures
TERMINATION OF TRADING	9:16 a.m. Central Time (CT) on the second business day immediately preceding the third Wednesday of the contract month (usually Monday)
TRADING HOURS	CME Globex and CME ClearPort: Sunday – Friday, 17:00-16:00 CT, with a 60-minute break each day beginning at 16:00 CT and no 17:00 CT session on Friday
EXCHANGE RULEBOOK	CME 292
BLOCK MINIMUM	–
VENDOR CODES	Quote Vendor Symbols Listing

Comparing futures vs. cash FX products

In a market as large as foreign exchange, you can gain exposure from both cash platforms and futures. Yet, there are distinct differences and reasons why investors around the world choose the futures market – from the liquidity, to the leverage, and the competitive all-in trading costs.

COMPARING FUTURES VS. CASH FX

FEATURES	FUTURES	CASH FX
LIQUIDITY & 24-HOUR ACCESS	Yes \$80B daily	Yes \$5.3T daily but highly fragmented globally
REGULATED, CENTRALIZED MARKET	Yes World's largest regulated for FX	No Face counterparty & execution risk
LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD	Yes See same prices, quotes, trade firm liquidity	No Little to no transparency, last look commonly used
FULLY DISCLOSED FEES	Yes Plus known, universal margin requirements	No Spreads often built into prices, varying margin/credit charges subject to counterparty
SAFETY & SECURITY	Yes Trades regulated, centrally cleared	No
SPEED & PERFORMANCE	Yes Fast trade executions, confirmations & straight-through processing	Depends Speed bumps, last-look, re-quoting execution delays common

What you need to know about trading EUR Standard-Size and E-Micro FX futures

Product description

Euro FX futures (Globex product code: 6E) are physically delivered contracts based on 125,000 euros for the standard-sized contract and 12,500 euros for the micro sized contract, one-tenth the standard contract size. The contracts are priced in US dollars per EUR and traded electronically on CME Globex and cleared via CME ClearPort.

A Euro futures contract represents an agreement to buy or sell 125,000 EUR/USD (or 12,500 EUR/USD for a micro contract) at a pre-determined time in the future, which is specified by the contract month being traded. Even though most futures contracts traded are not actually held until they are physically delivered, we will describe the contract expiration and delivery process in a subsequent section.

The "notional value" in US dollars of one contract is simply the contract size of 125,000 Euros X the current price of the futures contract. For example, at a price of \$1.213, the current USD notional value is \$151,625 for a standard-sized contract and \$15,162.50 for a micro contract.

"Tick" value

Unlike stocks, futures are quoted in points, often referred to as "ticks", representing the price move in a product. In the Euro futures, the minimum allowable difference or minimum price increment (MPI) between the bid and ask price is 0.00005 (\$6.25) in the standard contract and 0.0001 (\$1.25) in the micro contract. For example, if a trader were to buy one Euro Micro contract at \$1.2125 and sell at \$1.2175, the resultant profit and loss would be \$62.5 ($\$1.2175 - \$1.2125 = .50 \times \$1.25 = \62.5)

Trading on Globex

One critical element to market liquidity is how tight, or how small, the difference is between the bid and offer price. As you can see in the image below, in the front quarterly March expiry, 6E is quoted at the MPI (0.00005) – indicating efficient, tight markets. However, it is important to keep in mind that there's no guarantee that the market will always be quoted at the MPI, and during periods of high volatility, the contract may be quoted wider than the MPI. The market for EUR futures is available for trading on Globex nearly 24 hours a day, six days a week throughout US, European, and Asian trading hours.

Futures contract months

Euro futures contracts expire every month (as opposed to contracts that have only quarterly expirations, i.e. E-mini S&P 500 futures) therefore it is important for traders to understand the dynamics of contract expiration.

In Euro futures, trading terminates the second business day preceding the third Wednesday of the contract month (usually Monday). The highest volumes and tightest liquidity typically occur in the nearest quarterly contract month, with traders rolling their positions to the next quarterly contract in the two weeks leading up to expiration.

X	CC	Product	Description	Status	+	Qty	Bid	Ofr	Qty	Pin	Last	Change
-- EUR/USD Future												
x	6E	EUR/USD Future	Feb21	Open	+	6	1.21170	1.21185	1		1.20975	+0.00400
x	6E	EUR/USD Future	Mar21	Open	+	9	1.21245	1.21250	11		1.21245	+0.00600

Contract expiration and roll

The standard size and Micro Euro futures contracts are both physically delivered, meaning that if a trader holds an open position through the last trading day for the contract month, they will be obligated to either make delivery (short positions) or take delivery (long positions) of 125,000 euros per standard contract or 12,500 euros per micro contract. Therefore, if a trader's intention is not to make or take delivery of the currency, it is important to be aware of the day the contract stops trading so they may either close out or roll their position to a deferred contract month.

A trader holding an open position in Euro futures as the last trading day approaches has three options:

1. Close out their position by either buying or selling the number of contracts they are holding, leaving them without euro exposure.
2. Roll their position to a deferred month (typically the next quarterly contract). Traders who want to maintain their euro exposure will roll their position to the next expiring quarterly contract month. This is a common practice throughout all futures products and there is generally a very efficient liquid spread market on CME Globex that enables participants to cost-effectively roll positions. For example, if a trader was long one March Euro contract and wanted to maintain that long exposure, they could sell a Mar/Jun spread (sell Mar, buy Jun) and the resulting position would be long one June contract.
3. Hold the position and make or take delivery of the physical currency. However, this process can be complicated and expensive for the individual trader and is typically only undertaken by larger institutions that have established procedures in place.

Futures margin

To hold a futures position, traders are required to post what is referred to as "margin" for each contract held. This differs from US equities, where trading "on margin" involves a loan from a broker (and associated interest payments). "Margin" in futures is a performance bond or collateral held by the broker.

Currently, the margin requirement for one standard sized Euro contract is \$2,000, or \$200 for the micro sized contract. If a trader holds one contract, they would be required to post this amount as collateral. If the position were to move against the trader, they would then be required to post additional funds in order to maintain that amount. This is what is referred to as "mark to market".

It is important to keep in mind that margin requirements can change as volatility in the market fluctuates. CME Group will typically require higher margins as volatility increases. Additionally, brokerage firms may occasionally require higher margins than the Exchange.

FX market fundamentals

The price of the euro can be impacted by many different factors and is the second largest reserve currency, plus EUR/USD is the most actively traded currency pair.

The EUR/USD exchange rate is impacted by a variety of factors. The euro side of the exchange rate can be influenced by European Central Bank (ECB) monetary policy and economic growth, as well as domestic politics in the eurozone countries. The US dollar side can be impacted by US GDP growth rates, interest rates set by the Federal Reserve, and other factors related to US trade and economic growth.

Because there are numerous events that can impact the EUR/USD exchange rate, we recommend traders familiarize themselves with CME Group's Event Analyzer which lists the different economic events and number releases that can affect the price. [Learn more.](#)

Price limits

A price limit is the maximum price range permitted for a contract in each trading session. When markets hit the price limit, different actions occur depending on the product being traded. Markets may temporarily halt until price limits can be expanded, remain in a limit condition, or stop trading for the day, based on regulatory rules. You can check daily NQ price limits to make sure your trades are never left hanging during a price limit halt. Find daily NQ price limits [here](#).

Dynamic circuit breakers

Dynamic circuit breakers (DCBs) are similar to traditional circuit breakers but move with the market throughout the day. Within a specific time interval, DCBs define an upper and lower limit of how far an instrument is allowed to move in a specific time interval, usually an hour.

Each product has its own assigned value used to calculate the circuit breaker level, typically a percentage of its previous settlement price. NQ's dynamic circuit breaker is 3.5% and you can find our DCB variant [here](#) and more information on DCB methodology [here](#).

Velocity logic

Velocity logic governs how far the price of a product can move within a very short period of time. Whereas price limits and DCBs look at price moves on a daily or hourly basis, velocity logic is a control designed to prevent market dislocation on a second by second, or even sub-second, time interval. Velocity logic events can cause a particular market to halt temporarily when a

market reopens after a velocity logic event has been triggered, CME Group will restart the 60-minute window and calculate accordingly. Velocity logic uses a lookback window's highest and lowest prices in the previous time interval. If NQ's lookback window consists of a high price = 13,200 and a low price = 13,000 and the velocity logic's variance is 36, then the VL high bid = 13,336 and VL low bid = 12,964. You can learn more about velocity logic [here](#) and [here](#).

Price banding

Price banding evaluates incoming orders to ensure that a single order is not filled outside of an acceptable range from the last price, either on the upside or downside. It is symmetrically applied to both the upside (for bids) and downside (for offers) to determine the price band variation range (PBVR). With each price change, the PBVR is recalculated and the new range is applied. The CME Globex platform rejects all bids and offers outside the PBVR. ES's price band is 12 (found in the [GCC Product Reference Sheet](#)). If NQ is trading at 13,000, then the effective price bands are: bid = 13,012 and ask = 12,988.



Key reports and factors that impact foreign exchange markets

Any world events

Financial crises and elections create financial uncertainty and impact demand for, and the price of, currencies.

Non-farm payroll

This report is published the first Friday of month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). It indicates how many jobs the US economy has added or lost in the last month – a key driver of Fed policy – and watched by FX traders around the world. Job increases indicate economic growth.

Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates

GDP is the monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within a country and broadly measures overall economic activity.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Published mid-month by BLS in the US, CPI measures inflation or cost-of-living changes – tracking the average price of a basket of goods and services. CPI is a key driver of monetary policy for governments around the world.

Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC)

The FOMC meets eight times a year to set US monetary policy and key interest rate changes. The value of the US dollar is impacted by rate changes.

Central Bank monetary policy announcements

These announcements can affect the size/growth rate of a nation's money supply and, in turn, interest rates. They can include key interest rate changes, buying/selling government bonds, reserve requirements changes, and more.

Producer Price Index (PPI)

PPI is released the second or third week of the month by BLS. PPI is a weighted index of prices measured at the wholesale or producer level. PPI shows trends within the wholesale markets, manufacturing industries, and commodities markets.

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Educational resources

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BROKER DIRECTORY

Find a registered futures broker in your region offering FX futures and options. Find a broker to maintain your account.



INTRO TO FUTURES AND OPTIONS

Learn more about futures and options on futures contracts, the role of an exchange, who participates in this market, and how a trade works.



INTRO TO FX

Learn how the market works, the dynamics that drive pricing, and the different ways an investor can express their view in the market.



60-DAY FUTURES SIMULATOR

Test your strategies and skills to trade FX futures in a risk-free, real-time market environment and master heat maps, charts, indicators, and more.



ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND NEWS

Get expert breakdowns on how macroeconomic factors may impact the markets and view the latest market news.



MONITOR THE MARKET

Use our new CVOL basket of FX options indices to monitor sentiment in G5 currencies.



THE FX REPORT

Subscribe and understand the developments happening in CME FX markets.

Micro FX futures at a glance

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

[illegible]

Emerging Market FX futures at a glance

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

	BRAZILIAN REAL FUTURES	RUSSIAN RUBLE FUTURES	SOUTH AFRICAN RAND FUTURES	USD/CNH FUTURES	INDIAN RUPEE FUTURES
PRODUCT CODE	6L	6R	6Z	CNH	SIR
CONTRACT SIZE	100,000 BRL	2,500,000 RUB	500,000 ZAR	100,000 USD	5,000,000 Indian rupees
EXPIRATIONS	Monthly	Quarterly, Monthly	Quarterly, Monthly	Quarterly, Monthly	Quarterly, Monthly
QUOTATION	Quoted in USD per BRL	Quoted in USD per RUB	Quoted in USD per ZAR	Quoted in CNH per USD	Quoted in USD per INR
MINIMUM TICK SIZE (OUTRIGHTS)	0.00005 USD per BRL (5 USD)	0.000005 USD per JPY (12.50 USD)	0.000025 USD per ZAR (12.50 USD)	0.0001 CNH per USD (10.00 USD)	0.01 US cents per 100 INR (5.00 USD)
LAST TRADING DAY	On the last business day of the month, at 9:15 a.m. CT, immediately preceding the contract month, on which the Central Bank of Brazil is scheduled to publish its final end-of-month, "Commercial exchange rate for Brazilian reals per U.S. dollar for cash delivery".	Trading terminates on 15th day of the contract month, if that is not a business day, then it is the business day after that.	9:16 a.m. Central Time (CT) on the second business day immediately preceding the third Wednesday of the contract month (usually Monday).	Trading terminates at 11:00 a.m. Hong Kong time on the second Hong Kong business day prior to the third Wednesday of the contract month.	Trading terminates at Noon Mumbai time 2 Indian business days prior to the last Indian business day of the contract month.
CONTRACT SETTLEMENT	Financially Settled	Financially Settled	Physical Delivery	Financially Settled	Financially Settled
TRADING HOURS	CME Globex and CME ClearPort: Sunday – Friday, 17:00-16:00 CT, with a 60-minute break each day beginning at 16:00 CT and no 17:00 CT session on Friday				



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Neither futures trading nor swaps trading are suitable for all investors, and each involves the risk of loss. Swaps trading should only be undertaken by investors who are Eligible Contract Participants (ECPs) within the meaning of Section 1a(18) of the Commodity Exchange Act. Futures and swaps each are leveraged investments and, because only a percentage of a contract's value is required to trade, it is possible to lose more than the amount of money deposited for either a futures or swaps position. Therefore, traders should only use funds that they can afford to lose without affecting their lifestyles and only a portion of those funds should be devoted to any one trade because traders cannot expect to profit on every trade.

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